



Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee Minutes of the March 15, 2011 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Diane Alcala, Bill Ambrunn, Alex Baty, Bart Broome, Mark Dunlop, Paul Klees, Allison Laureano, Erik Martinez, Bonnie Miluso, Angie Perone, Joseph Peralta, Bianca Polovina, Fayaz Rajani, Ray Rudolph, Mark Snyder, Cat Stevens, Lindasusan Ulrich, Vaughn Villaverde, Amy Whelan, and Cynthia Yeung.

Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Todd Mavis, Commissioner Julius Turman, Corrin Buchanan, Elizabeth Labeledz, Amos Lim, and Jose Romero.

Staff Present: Theresa Sparks, Nadia Babella, David Miree, and Zoe Polk.

Guests Present: Zac Morfin and Mike Perkins.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Commissioner Chung called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Ms. Babella called the roll; there was quorum.

2. **Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2011:**

Bianca moved to approve the minutes as written; motion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:**

None.

4. **Introduction of New Members:**

Director Theresa Sparks welcomed all the new members. She stated that the LGBTAC was an exciting committee to work on and one of the most productive citizens' advisory groups. The Commission has formed a new policy unit which deals with a number of issues including sanctuary city, providing protections for people with prior records, human trafficking, and hate crime. Staff include Nadia Babella, Linda Janourova, Zoe Polk, and David Miree. Zoe Polk and David Miree introduced themselves. The following new Advisory Committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio: Bonnie Miluso, Diane Alcala, Angie Perone, Cat Sevans, Paul Klees, Bill Ambrunn, and Erik Martinez.



5. Mentor/Mentee:

New members were matched with two old advisory committee members as their mentors. Each group of three was asked to connect with each other so they can introduce on another at the annual retreat. Old members were to further orient the new members with the Advisory Committee.

6. April Retreat:

The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the API Wellness Center. Commissioner Chung explained that everyone will have the opportunity to bring an idea to the retreat. You will get to present your idea in small working groups. Your group will work on the different ideas and decide which ideas you want to bring back to the larger group. You either sell your idea or are sold on an idea.

The Committee will choose 3 or 4 final ideas. Sometimes we can do panels. We also have unfinished business from previous years and we want to honor our predecessors and some of the work that was started. That is how we preserve continuity but proceed with new idea.

The retreat structure and agenda was developed over time and it is a work in progress. Bart Broome stated that the small group elimination portion of the retreat can result in a good idea being dropped. Commissioner Chung suggested an appeal process to save an idea that was eliminated.

Angie Perone asked if you can expand on an already existing report. Commissioner Chung stated that you can expand on previous ideas. In addition, not all ideas turned into reports. Beyond marriage and bi invisibility panels turned into a report, but LGBT senior panel did not. Sometimes the Committee just hosts a panel or a town hall and writes an op-ed piece. Sometimes the work is just to educate the Committee or the community on a topic. Sometimes we have forums or hearings. Sometimes work is left behind, unless someone else champions it.

Fayaz Rajani asked if the LGBT asylum and senior work will be coming up for a vote at the retreat or if the work is assumed to continue. Commissioner Chung state that you have to decide how to present this work, whether it's a continuation or a new development in the work and then it gets voted on along with the other ideas.

Joseph Peralta stated that having clear POP (Purpose Outcome and Process) for each topic ahead of time will save us time. POP helps you to frame your conversations more precisely. Staff will email an explanation of POP to help members frame their conversations more precisely. Lindasusan Ulrich stated that it's okay to be very specific; you can always add more later.

7. Passing of Bisexual Invisibility Report: Next Steps – Distribution and Implementation

The report was passed unanimously by the Commission on March 10, 2011. Commissioner Chung thanked Lindasusan for bringing the idea to the retreat and seeing it through. The Commission meeting was really well attended by the bisexual community. The report is changing minds and how we speak about the topic. The report has been getting a lot of play. There have been requests for it from Spain and Bolivia. An AP reporter is working on the story. The Commission meeting and presentation of the report were videotaped; you can download and watch it. <http://blip.tv/file/4871710>

The next big task is distribution and implementation. A two-prong approach about the media strategy was recommended: 1) press release and 2) prepare an op-ed piece to go out. Press release is a good way to get public attention, but a more in-depth way to educate the public is to use an op-ed piece, where we can be more specific and go into more detail. Mark asked if there a plan to distribute it to broader nonprofits? The plan is to distribute it widely. Cynthia asked if we can we put the document on Google docs and scribe it? Yes, since it's a public document so you can distribute it anyway you can. You can forward the link anywhere you want and individuals can distribute it to their lists.

8. Passing of Beyond Marriage Report: Next Steps – Distribution and Implementation

The report was passed unanimously by the Commission on March 10, 2011. Samer Danfoura presented the report. Our Vice-Chair Commissioner Chen praised the report recommendations, especially the recommendation to make estate planning more accessible through easy to use forms. Samer also spoke about the care cooperatives and kinship registrations. The report speaks to not only LGBT communities but to other communities, such as senior communities and emancipated youth. HUD was looking at the definition of family and household. This report is useful in that it broadens the definition. Mark Dunlop commented that the report impressed many members of the Commission and the next step is to take legislative steps to advance the ideas. Both Tom Ammiano and David Campos were present at the forum and should be approached about some of these ideas.

With respect to implementation and distribution, it was suggested that the report be distributed to elected officials - state legislatures, BOS, and other local governments. In addition, the report can be distributed to other HRC's. We can follow-up with LGBT elected officials to see if there is interested in sponsoring some of the legislation, put it on twitter. A press release and executive summary will be written by the staff. It was also suggested that we consider doing an op-ed with the Bay Guardian or the Chronicle and to try to find a prominent person who will be the author of the op-ed. Another idea was to have the BOS introduce a resolution to endorse the report.

9. End of Year Evaluation:

Evaluations included the following:

- AC member was proud of the two reports the Committee generated and all of the good work. In the beginning things moved slow and then all of sudden there two reports emerged and they were both cutting edge and relevant to his work.
- The panels and 7 by 7 were very informative and broadened our perspective.
- We brought in senior voices and issues.
- We talked about issues no one else talked about.
- The asylum training has potential to be life changing. We're representing SF well and keeping its reputation of being a model city for such developments.
- We attracted diverse crowds to our various forums
- We set out to meet in the community and we did. We can do that even more often.
- Both of the reports took two or more years to complete, so a lot of work has to go into this
- We don't start our year's work until April, and then there's no meeting in June, so it doesn't feel like we have a year to work on issues, but more like 6 months. We should consider bringing in new members in December and having a retreat in January.
- We should find ways to make the retreat have very targeted projects. Even with a lot of people working hard, we didn't maximize our resources. People were ready to go at the beginning, but we weren't clear on to how to proceed.
- A lot of the responsibility is on the chair/leader of the workgroup and other members did less.
- Get involved on a committee and work on a topic they don't know much about.

- Pockets of our community are not represented on the Committee.
- AC Fable – Sometimes you join a committee expecting to be a passenger on the bus going along for the ride. All of a sudden the bus driver is gone, so you start driving. You then look around and realize all the passengers are gone too. Such was the fate of the LGBT housing work group.
- Don't leave a work group without a task assigned to you. It may be making a phone call, or looking it up. A little bit of work can go a long way.
- We can diversify where we hold our forums. We can meet in different neighborhoods and take our advisory committee to the various neighborhoods.

10. Workgroup Report

LGBT Asylum – The group is hoping the topic will be picked up at the annual retreat to finish creating and implementing the training.

Alternative Family/Senior workgroup – The group did not meet, but hopes to reform after the retreat with new members and new focus.

Housing Rights – The group will see if this topic is picked up again at the retreat. Amnesty is meeting to work on human rights issues and exploring this issue.

Bisexual Invisibility – The report was passed. The group will work on implementation.

11. Member report on Activities in the Community:

Horizons and United way are holding a convening on LGBT Poverty on March 22, 2011. Department of Justice is looking at eliminating sexual violence in prison. Guidelines are being presented and are open for comments until April 7. Suggestions include housing transgender inmates in facilities aligned with their gender identity instead of birth gender. Transgender women can be housed with biological women.

12. Commissioner Report:

Commissioners had a retreat on March 24, 2011 to look at their priorities. Commission has new staff in policy unit and is looking at taking new direction and doing more advocacy work.

13. Staff Report

AMEMSA surveillance and profiling report is on the website.

14. Old/New Business:

No Old/New Business was discussed.

15. Announcements:

No new announcements were presented.

16. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.